

What is professional supervision?

Professional supervision is for professionally qualified workers in social services. Professional supervision supports supervisees to maintain professional identity, knowledge and meet post registration training and learning requirements. For example a Social Worker would be matched with another, more senior, Social Worker to provide additional, professional, supervision where their line manager, who normally provides their supervision, is not a Social Worker. This may become more common as services become more integrated. It forms an essential input to maintaining and developing practice outcomes for individuals, professionals and agencies.

Professional supervision can be conducted one-to-one or in a group setting and much of the guidance provided in the resources for these supervision models can be adapted for professional supervision. Professional supervision could also be 'shared' to improve resourcing and minimise risk by widening the pool of available practitioners.

When effective professional supervision is in place it can

- enable and support quality practice by providing opportunity for reviewing and reflecting on practice issues
- provide opportunity to review roles and relationships, evaluating the outcomes of the work and maximising opportunities for wider learning
- support Post Registration Training and Learning (PRTL) through maintaining professional competency